

Applicants : Tan et al.  
USSN : 10/578,762  
Filed : 12-19-2006  
Examiner : Heidi M. Bashaw  
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Atty. Dkt. No. : 1189-PCT-US  
Art Unit : 4138  
Date of office action: 10-30-2007  
Date of response: 1-30-2008

### Amendments To The Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An orthodontic appliance comprising:  
a base portion (8) adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth,  
a body portion extending from the base portion (8) and having an archwire receiving means and a first narrowing (5) forming a neck portion with said base portion (8) and provided substantially rear of the archwire receiving means,  
the archwire receiving means having a slot (3) substantially adapted to receive a portion of an archwire (4) and having an opening (9) comprising a second narrowing portion which is narrower than the slot (3).
2. (Currently amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second narrowing portion is provided along the ~~a length and/or~~ opening of the archwire receiving means.
3. (Currently amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second narrowing is provided at at least one point at the ~~along a length and/or~~ opening of the archwire receiving means.

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4. (Previously amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second narrowing portion is at least one protrusion or rib (2).
5. (Original) An orthodontic appliance comprising:
  - a base portion (8) adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth,
  - a body portion extending from the base portion (8) and having an archwire receiving means and a first narrowing (5) forming a neck portion with said base portion (8) and provided substantially rear of the archwire receiving means,
  - the archwire receiving means having a slot (3) substantially adapted to receive a portion of an archwire (4) and having an opening (9) comprising an enlarged portion which is broader than the slot (3).
6. (Currently amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 5, wherein the enlarged portion is provided along a length ~~and/or opening (9)~~ of the archwire receiving means.
7. (Currently amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 5, wherein the enlarged portion is provided at ~~as~~ one or more points at the opening ~~along a length and/or breadth~~ of the archwire receiving means.
8. (Previously amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 5, wherein the enlarged portion is at least one protrusion or rib (2).

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9. (Previously amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1, wherein the appliance is an orthodontic bracket.
10. (Previously amended) A method for straightening teeth with an orthodontic appliance according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
- bonding a base portion of the appliance to a surface of a tooth;
  - coupling an archwire to said orthodontic appliance, including
    - placing the archwire proximate an archwire receiving means, and
    - moving the archwire into contact with either a narrowing portion of the archwire receiving means or an enlarged portion of the receiving means; and
    - pushing said archwire substantially past said narrowing portion or enlarged portion.

11-13. (Canceled)